

United States Senate

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The Honorable Joe Scarnati
Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
292 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

July 20, 2009

Dear Lieutenant Governor *Joe* Scarnati:

I write to express my support for House Bill 1770. I am advised that this bill would provide an additional seven weeks of federally-funded extended unemployment benefits to Pennsylvanians who have exhausted claims to current unemployment benefits.

House Bill 1770 would make a temporary adjustment to the measurement that Pennsylvania uses to trigger extended unemployment benefits. This adjustment will provide out-of-work Pennsylvanians with access to \$145 million in federal funds provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for seven additional weeks of unemployment benefits. I am informed that doing so will prevent approximately 57,000 Pennsylvania residents from losing unemployment benefits over the next few months.

Accordingly, I urge you to ensure swift passage of this bill in the State Senate.

Additionally, it is my understanding that upon enactment of House Bill 1770, the U.S. Department of Labor must review the law to ensure it complies with requirements under the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act. In a separate letter (copy enclosed), I am urging U.S. Secretary of Labor Solis to promptly review House Bill 1770 should it be enacted.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

*Joe - This
obviously is very
important to a lot
many unemployed
people. My Best*

AS/mk

CC: Members of the Pennsylvania Senate

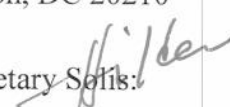
Enclosure

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July 20, 2009

Honorable Hilda Solis
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Solis: 

I write regarding legislation pending in the Pennsylvania State Senate, House Bill 1770, which would make a temporary adjustment to the measurement that Pennsylvania uses to trigger extended unemployment benefits.

Specifically, this legislation would establish a total unemployment rate trigger in Pennsylvania, which currently only has an insured unemployment rate trigger. I am advised that in so doing, House Bill 1770 would allow the Commonwealth to take advantage of \$145 million in funds made available to it under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for an additional seven weeks of extended unemployment benefits. This extension would prevent some 57,000 of my constituents from losing unemployment benefits over the next few months.

It is my understanding that, upon enactment of House Bill 1770, the U.S. Department of Labor must review the law and ensure it complies with applicable requirements.

Accordingly, contingent upon enactment of this legislation in Pennsylvania, I urge you to promptly grant it your full and fair consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS/mk